

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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SUBJ: GUATEMALAN-MEXICAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE - ECONOMIC SUBJECTS

REF: A. MEXICO 8330, B. 75 GUATEMALA 6455, C. GUATEMALA 4716

SUMMARY: MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT OF GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT'S

VISIT TO MEXICO IN ECONOMIC FIELD WAS SIGNING OF AGREEMENT
WITH GOM ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN PETROLEUM. MUCH MORE
DETAILED AND SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENT HOWEVER SIGNED WITH
VENEZUELA JUST BEFORE GUATEMALAN MISSION LEFT FOR MEXICO. OTHER
PROBLEMS IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN GUATEMALA AND
MEXICO PAPERED OVER. END SUMMARY

1. FROM GUATEMALAN VANTAGE POINT, VISIT OF PRESIDENT LAUGERUD
TO MEXICO JUNE 22-34(REF A), SOMEWHAT LESS PRODUCTIVE IN
ECONOMIC SPHERE THAN WAS PRESIDENT ECHEVARRIA VISIT TO GUATE-
MALA LAST NOVEMBER (REF B).

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2. ONLY AGREEMENT SIGNED IN MEXICO (VERSUS TWO SIGNED

IN NOVEMBER, ON SOCIAL SECURITY MEDICAL TREATMENT AND MEDFLY CONTROL) WAS BRIEF "ACUERDO" ON PETROLEUM COOPERATION TO WHICH TWO COUNTRIES HAD EARLIER COMMITTED THEMSELVES. AGREEMENT REACHED TO EXCHANGE TECHNICAL INFORMATION; COORDINATE ACQUISITION OF SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR "STATE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY", AND FOR MEXICO TO PROVIDE TRAINING TO GUATEMALANS IN PETROLEUM FIELD.

3. IN AN INTERVIEW ON HIS RETURN FROM MEXICO EDUARDO PALOMO, GUATEMALAN MINISTER OF ECONOMY WHO HAD SIGNED PETROLEUM AGREEMENT, INFORMED EMBASSY THAT GUATEMALA NOT RPT NOT MOVING TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY; DESPITE REFERENCE IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE, PALOMO SAID SUCH INDUSTRY "EXISTS ONLY IN MEXICO". RE TRAINING IN PETROLEUM, TWO DAYS BEFORE MEXICAN TRIP PALOMO HAD SIGNED IN GUATEMALA MUCH MORE DETAILED AGREEMENT WITH VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR. IT PROVIDES FOR VISITS HERE BY VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO EVALUATE GEOLOGICAL/GEOPHYSICAL INFORMATION DEVELOPED IN GUATEMALA, ADVISE GOG ON SERVICE CONTRACTS TO BE PROPOSED BY FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES UNDER NEW EVOLVING PETROLEUM REGIME, AND CONSULT ON IMPUTED COSTS OF EXPLORATIONS, PRODUCTION, TRANSPORTATION AND REFINING AND ON PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL PRICES TO BE FIXED FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. VENEZUELA ALSO WILL STAFF TRAINING COURSES IN GUATEMALA; TRAIN GOG OFFICIALS, AN ECONOMIST, AND A LAWYER IN APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN VENEZUELA; AND PROVIDE 42 MAN-YEARS OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR PETROLEUM STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS IN VENEZUELA. PROGRAM WOULD BE COORDINATED BY NEW ECONMIC COUNSELOR(PETROLEUM AFFAIRS) IN VENEZUELAN EMBASSY HERE, WHO IS ALSO TO SERVE AS ADVISOR TO GOG ON SUBJECT. IN SUM, VENEZUELAN AGREEMENT MUCH MORE EXTENSIVE, MORE SPECIFIC AND GENERALLY MORE CONTRIBUTIVE THAN THAT BETWEEN GUATEMALA AND MEXICO.

4. GUATEMALA-MEXICAN COMMUNIQUE GAVE PROMINENCE TO COINCIDENCE OF VIEWS ON TWO COUNTRIES ON EXTENSIONS OF 200-MILE PATRIMONIAL SEA(REF C). ALSO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OF GOG AND GOM OVER COOPERATION IN COMBATING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEDFLY(ON WHICH AGREEMENT SIGNED LAST NOVEMBER) AND ALSO COFFEE WEEVIL. AS IN PREVIOUS COMMUNIQUE, COMMITMENT ONCE AGAIN MADE TO IMPROVE CUSTOMS AND MIGRATION FACILITIES ON BORDERS TO PERMIT SMOOTHER FLOW OF GOODS AND PEOPLE ACROSS BORDER.

5. SUPPORT GIVEN IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE TO VARIOUS REGIONAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES-IN BANANA MARKETING(AS BEFORE)

PLUS COFFEE AND SUGAR. HOWEVER AREAS OF COOPERATION
SPOTLIGHTED IN NOVEMBER-I.E., RE ISSUES OF TRADE
(HEAVILY ADVERSE TO GUATEMALA), INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT,
TOURISM, COMMUNICATIONS, AIR TRANSPORT, AND MEDICAL
TREATMENT UNDER SOCIAL SECURITY-NOT MENTIONED JT ALL.

6. DESPITE FANFARE TO CONTRARY, ECONOMIC RELATIONS
BETWEEN GUATEMALA AND MEXICO REMAIN BESET WITH PROBLEMS.
VIST BY LAUGERUD LARGELY PAPERED THEM OVER AND DID
LITTLE TO ADVANCE THEM SIGNIFICANTLY TOWARD SOLUTION.
ANDREWS

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